

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-25

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PINT NO NATO

SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER STRESSES NORWAY'S INTEREST IN ATLANTIC
DIALOGUE

BEGIN SUMMARY. FOREIGN MINISTER VAARVIK HAS REITERATED NORWAY'S

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BELIEF THAT NATO SHOULD BE THE CHIEF FORUM FOR WORKING OUT AN

ATLANTIC DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES. IN A RECENT CAMPAIGN SPEECH, VAARVIK LISTED THE DESIRABLE ELEMENTS OF SUCH A DECLARATION ALONG LINES PRESENTED BY NORWAY TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL ON JULY 25. END SUMMARY.

1. NORWAY'S THOUGHTS ON WHAT A DECLARATION OF ATLANTIC PRINCIPLES SHOULD CONTAIN HAVE BEEN SPELLED OUT BY FOREIGN MINISTER DAGFINN VAARVIK IN A PRE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN SPEECH. AT AN ELECTION RALLY IN SANDNESSJOEN ON AUGUST 27, VAARVIK (WHO IS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTER PARTY) STRESSED NORWAY'S POSITIVE REACTION TO THE APRIL 23 KISSINGER INITIATIVE, SAID NORWAY BELIEVES NATO "OUGHT TO BE THE CHIEF FORUM" FOR DISCUSSING ATLANTIC COOPERATION, AND STATED THAT NORWAY HAS BEEN AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN THE NATO TALKS NOW IN PROGRESS. HE THEN OUTLINED NORWAY'S IDEAS FOR AN ATLANTIC DECLARATION IN TERMS ALMOST IDENTICAL TO THOSE PRESENTED TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL BY THE NORWEGIAN PERMREP ON JULY 25 (USNATO 3518).

2. VAARVIK'S SPEECH WOULD PROBABLY HAVE GONE LARGELY UNNOTICED IN THE CURRENT WELTER OF CAMPAIGN ORATORY, HAD NOT THE CONSERVATIVE PRESS SOUGHT TO PLAY UP HIS REFERENCE TO "CREATING A STABLE COMMERCIAL AND MONETARY SITUATION." AS IN THE OUTLINE PRESENTED TO THE NAC, THIS ELEMENT WAS FAR DOWN ON THE LIST IN VAARVIK'S SPEECH; IT NEVERTHELESS WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY BOTH AFTENPOSTEN AND MORGENBLADET IN ARTICLES IMPLYING THAT VAARVIK'S CENTER PARTY, HAVING FOUGHT SO HARD TO KEEP NORWAY OUT OF THE COMMON MARKET, NOW WANTS TO BROADEN NATO'S MANDATE TO ENCOMPASS ECONOMIC AND MONETARY COOPERATION.

3. THEN WE INQUIRED AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ON THE DAY AFTER THE SPEECH, WE WERE TOLD THERE WAS NO TEXT AVAILABLE. ON AUGUST 30, HOWEVER, THE MINISTRY FELT COMPELLED ("SINCE THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S STATEMENT CONCERNING NORWAY'S VIEWS ON ATLANTIC COOPERATION HAS BEEN MISQUOTED IN CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE PRESS") TO PUBLISH A FULL TEXT, IN ENGLISH TRANSLATION.

4. COMMENT: WHAT VAARVIK SAID WAS NOT STARTLING AND CERTAINLY NOT DIFFERENT FROM THE VIEWS NORWAY HAS ALREADY PUT FORWARD TO THE NAC. THE FACT THAT HE FELT IT USEFUL TO SAY IT PUBLICLY, HOWEVER, IN A CAMPAIGN WHERE INTEREST IS ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY FOCUSED ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DOMESTIC ISSUES, IS INDICATIVE OF NORWAY'S KEEN DESIRE NOT TO BE LEFT OUT OF THE ATLANTIC DIALOGUE. REPORTS THAT THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS WILL BE HAMMERING OUT A DRAFT DECLARATION OF THEIR OWN IN SEPTEMBER DOUBTLESS PROVIDED AN EXTRA STIMULUS FOR HIM TO ISSUE A REMINDER THAT NORWAY, TOO, EXPECTS TO HAVE A VOICE IN THE DRAFTING PROCESS.
BUCHANAN

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